

Press Release

The First Gallery to Exhibit Contemporary African Art at Art Dubai.

October Gallery, London has been instrumental in bringing to worldwide attention many of the world's leading international artists, including **El Anatsui, Rachid Koraïchi, Romuald Hazoumè, Nnenna Okore, Laila Shawa and Kenji Yoshida.**

October Gallery promotes the art of the *Transvanguard* - or trans-cultural avant-garde. The programme at Art Dubai will consist of an exciting line up of leading artists from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Founded in 1979, it was the first gallery in the UK to present contemporary art from all around the world.

El Anatsui created much attention last year at Art Dubai with his dazzling metal sculpture '*In the World but Don't Know the World?*'. Made from tens of thousands of bottle-tops, its beauty was compared with that of the magnificent piece he created for the façade of the Palazzo Fortuny during the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007). This year, October Gallery is planning to present another intricate wall installation, '*Skylines?*'.

On exhibition will be renowned artist **Rachid Koraïchi**, who will show several banners from his series, *7 Variations autour de l'Indigo*; **Golnaz Fathi**, whose masterful calligraphy is the departure point of her work as she transforms it into bold expressive works on paper and canvas; **Kenji Yoshida**, the first living artist ever to be given a solo show at the Japanese Galleries of the British Museum with his gold and silver canvases of serene beauty; one of Africa's leading artists, **Romuald Hazoumè**, winner in 2007 of the *documenta 12* prize; Palestinian artist **Laila Shawa**, whose work is based on a heightened sense of realism and targets injustice and persecution wherever their roots may be; **Wijdan**, whose artistic practice is situated at the cutting edge of modern calligraphic style; Ghanaian painter, **Owusu-Ankomah**, who merges *Adinkra* symbols with figures inspired by *Capoeira* and *Renaissance* sculpture and who developed a line of clothing for the Red Campaign with Giorgio Armani; as well as rising star **Nnenna Okore**, who was mentored by **El Anatsui**, and whose highly tactile works, made of clay, are shaped into dramatic forms, when displayed. Also exhibited will be **Hassan Massoudy, Elisabeth Lalouschek, Brion Gysin, Julien Sinzogan** and new to October Gallery, Nepalese artist **Govinda Sah 'Azad'**.

Behind October Gallery are two dynamic individuals; Co-founder and Director Chili Hawes and Artistic Director, Elisabeth Lalouschek. Together they work as a team to exhibit and promote the very best contemporary art, as well as maintaining a cultural hub in central London for poets, writers, intellectuals and artists.

The rich diversity of art presented will be an inspiration to collectors and enthusiasts. Institutions such as the British Museum, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf; Neue Galerie, Kassel; Setagagya Art Museum, Tokyo, and GOMA, Brisbane have all collected works from October Gallery.

October Gallery's 4th year at Art Dubai will once again prove to be an insightful and exciting opportunity for those wishing to invest in new fields of contemporary art for the new decade to come.

Notes for Editors:

October Gallery will exhibit works at Art Dubai 2011 from the following artists:

El Anatsui, Romuald Hazoumè, Rachid Korāichi, Golnaz Fathi, Brion Gysin, Elisabeth Lalouschek, Hassan Massoudy, Nnenna Okore, Owusu-Ankomah, Laila Shawa, Julien Sinzogan, Wijdan, Kenji Yoshida and Govinda Sah 'Azad'

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Opening hours:	Tuesday – Saturday 12.30 - 5.30pm or by appointment
Courtyard café:	Tuesday – Friday 12.30 - 2.30pm
Admission:	Free
Website:	www.octobergallery.co.uk
Email:	press@octobergallery.co.uk
Nearest tubes:	Holborn/Russell Square
Buses:	19, 25, 38, 55, 168 and 188
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